



# News Release

## Arizona Department of Public Safety

POST OFFICE BOX 6638 \* PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85005-6638

May 13, 2004

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Direct Inquiries to:

Frank Valenzuela 602-223-2310

Steve Volden 602-223-2460

Call out pager 602-202-4926

### *Home Invasion Suspects Arrested During Sting Operation*

On Wednesday, May 12, 2004 at approximately 8:30pm Arizona Department of Public Safety investigators, working with several other local law enforcement agencies conducted a covert sting operation which resulted in several arrests at a home located at 14649 E. Pecos Road in Gilbert, Arizona. The sting operation was the result of a three-month undercover investigation conducted by the Douglas Police Department, Tucson/Pima County Narcotics Alliance, the Arizona Department of Public Safety, the Phoenix and Chandler Police Departments. The Arizona Department of Public Safety coordinated the Sting Operation with assistance from the Douglas, Chandler, Gilbert and Mesa Police Departments and the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

During the course of the investigation, several subjects who were suspected of conducting several home invasions and robberies in Maricopa and Pima County area were identified. Investigators and tactical team members were able to set up a residence located at 14649 E. Pecos Road as a bait house. Marijuana was stored in the house and tactical officers were strategically deployed. At 8:30p.m. Nine suspects arrived at the residence in 5 vehicles, with the first vehicle displaying red flashing lights in the dashboard. They rushed the house and entered the residence wearing black police and military type clothing and carrying semi-automatic rifles and pistols. The suspects were given enough time to locate the marijuana in the residence. At that time, tactical officers began to give them orders to drop their weapons and give up. Six suspects surrendered to police at the residence and three attempted to flee. Tactical officers took the fleeing suspects into custody a very short time later.

The growing concern with these types of home invasions is that many times, the suspects target the wrong home by accident and innocent citizens are then victimized by these aggressive acts. Several unexplained home invasions have taken place where these suspects have used force to injure innocent victims. This is an ongoing investigation and several additional arrests are expected.